

Missoula Municipal Court

SENATE JUDICIARY

EXHIBIT NO. 5

DATE 1/27/09

FILE NO. SB230

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January 27, 2009

Re: Senate Bill 230

My name is Pat Morgan the Court Administrator for Missoula Municipal Court. I am here today to offer testimony in favor of Senate Bill 230.

Offender compliance and accountability is an important issue in the justice system. Senate Bill 230 would help increase offender compliance and accountability by giving law enforcement the authority to enforce Judge ordered conditions by way of a violation of Montana's criminal contempt statute.

This is especially true in the 18 – 21 year old underage drinking problem. In these cases, there is no jail time connected in a first or second offense and therefore does not lend to the process of revocation. The possibility of a criminal contempt charge as an added incentive for following a court order would add more teeth to the possible consequences of these cases and help increase offender compliance and accountability. Increased compliance of sentencing orders in these cases could result in fewer repeat offenses.

Sincerely,



Pat Morgan  
Municipal Court Administrator